

News from the DLN

2012 DLN 10th Anniversary



Congratulatory Message from the Lesotho Ambassador



H. E. Mr. Paramente Phamotse

On the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Denmark Lesotho Network

July 2012

*Bo-'M'e le Bo-Ntate!
Mine damer og herrer!*

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho has received with great gratitude an invitation to celebrate with you the 10th Anniversary of Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN). Though we could not make it to this auspicious and historic event, please allow me on behalf of the Embassy to

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Membership of DLN

congratulate the Association a million times for this immense achievement. The success of the Association in these 10 years reflects positively on the conviction and passion that all the members of DLN have towards upholding the principles of humanity and global citizenship by making a meaningful impact on the lives of other people. This achievement will be worth celebrating many days to come.

Please allow me to also take this opportunity to express my appreciation and humble thanks to all the members of DLN for their positive intervention in Lesotho. There is no doubt that this Association has become a beacon of hope for many people living in the areas where DLN has had programmes since 2002. I wish to thank you on behalf of those people and on behalf of the Government of Lesotho. As the Ambassador of Lesotho accredited to Denmark, I am therefore delighted to reiterate our commitment to work closely with the Association to achieve its future plans. I have no doubt that together we can make a difference.

As you continue to break new grounds and put a smile on the faces of our fellow countrymen and women, may God bless you with more success!

Happy 10 years anniversary!

Khotso, Pula, Nala!



DLN PARTY/PITSO 2012

By Bente Rønbjerg

On the seventh of July my sister Kisser, my Mosotho daughter Thandie and I attended the party held to celebrate the DLN's 10th anniversary.

It was obvious that we should join the party, as Thandie had just arrived in Denmark on 26th June.

Since the invitation informed that other visitors from Lesotho would participate, I thought it would be a special experience for Thandie to meet other fellow countrymen.

We arrived at Anders and Signe on Hvidballe Farm in Skanderborg on time.

The first people we saw were three Basotho - one man and two women - the women dressed in traditional patterned dresses and the man with the Basotho hat and cane. Traditional Basotho blankets and hats were available to those who might need it.



Although none of them knew Thandie, there was great joy in meeting each other here on Danish soil.

The other Danish visitors gradually showed up - many wearing Basotho hat. It was clear that there was great joy among all. Several had worked in Lesotho for a long time ago and could still greet in Sesotho and also speak the language. Also attending was a couple from Aalborg, Maggie a Mosotho woman and married to Danish Jens for 30 years. It was

DLN FEST/ PITSO 2012

Af Bente Rønbjerg

Den 7. juli deltog undertegnede, sammen med min søster Kisser og min Mosotho datter Thandie i festen, der blev afholdt for at fejre DLN's 10 års jubilæum.

Det var oplagt, at vi skulle deltage i festen, da Thandie netop var ankommet til Danmark den 26. juni.

Da der i invitationen blev oplyst, at der ville deltage flere gæster fra Lesotho, syntes jeg, at det ville være en særlig oplevelse for Thandie at møde andre landsfæller.

Vi ankom til Anders og Signe på Hvidballegård i Skanderborg til det inviterede tidspunkt.



Det første vi fik øje på var 3 Basothoer - 1 mand og 2 kvinder - kvinderne iklædt de traditionelle mønstrede kjoler og manden med Basotho hat og stok. Traditionelle Basotho tæpper og hatte lå klar til dem, der måtte få brug for det. Selv om ingen af dem kendte Thandie, var der stor glæde over at møde hinanden her på dansk jord.

De øvrige danske gæster mødte efterhånden op - mange iklædt Basotho hat. Det var tydeligt, at der var stor gensynsglæde mellem mange. Flere havde arbejdet sammen i Lesotho for længe siden og kunne stadig hilse på Sesotho og også tale sproget. Der deltog også et ægtepar fra Ålborg, hvor kvinden Maggie var Mosotho og gift med danske Jens gennem 30 år. Det var kun ganske få af deltagerne, som jeg havde mødt før, men flere havde hørt om mit arbejde i

only a few of the participants, whom I had met before, but several had heard about my work in the knitting project in Ha Mosue. The three of us were received with warmth.

The weather was as ordered - brilliant sunshine. We started out with coffee and a chat in the yard.

When all had arrived, there was a welcome speech, as we had placed ourselves at the tables. Thandie, Maggie and 'm'e Mampo Thulo, who was up here to look at agriculture, sat together and talked a lot.

Guests from Lesotho spoke in turn and gave the network a woven carpet, as thanks for their hospitality.



As an outsider, it is not easy to retell the speeches, but it was certain that the guests from Lesotho were enthusiastic about what they had experienced and the way they had been welcomed by the members of DLN.

strikkeprojektet i Ha Mosue. Vi blev alle 3 taget rigtig godt imod.

Vejret var som bestilt – højt solskin. Der var dækket op til kaffebord og hygge på gårdspladsen.

Da alle var ankommet, blev der budt velkommen, og vi fik placeret os ved bordene.



Thandie, Maggie og 'm'e Mampo Thulo, der var heroppe for at se på landbrug, satte sig sammen, og der blev snakket rigtig meget. Gæsterne fra Lesotho holdt tale på skift og forærede foreningen et vævet tæppe, som tak for deres gæstfrihed.

Som udenforstående er det ikke let at genfortælle talerne, men et var helt sikkert - de var begejstrede for det, de havde oplevet og den måde, de var blevet taget imod af medlemmerne af DLN.



Efter kaffe og taler kom der Basotho musik på cd-afspilleren, og der blev danset traditionel Basotho dans.

Vi forsøgte alle at følge med de indfødte i dansen. For mig, der ikke tidligere har forsøgt

After coffee and talking, Basotho music was put on the CD player and we danced traditional Basotho dance.



We all tried to keep up with the natives in the dance. For me, who has not previously tried this, it was not very easy - but I certainly think that there were some who had jumped the gun earlier in the day.



The dinner was made by specially selected guests and featured delicious food - including Papa, Moroho, grilled lamb chops and sausages. During dinner we sat together with the indigenous farmer ntate Makhema Mats'aba, who was in Denmark on the farm visits. He was really nice to talk to – among other things we talked about Danes and their dogs, as a couple of the latter species stayed in the room where we dined. He was very interested in the price of a dog in Denmark. When we approximately a year ago got a new little one, I could tell that it had cost Danish

mig, var det ikke særligt nemt - men jeg tror helt sikkert, at der var nogen, der havde tyvstartet tidligere på dagen.



Middagen blev fremstillet af specielt udvalgte gæster og bød på lækker mad – bl.a. Papa, Moroho, grillede lammekoteletter og pølser.



Under middagen sad vi sammen med den indfødte landmand ntate Makhema Mats'aba, der var i Danmark på landbrugsbesøg. Han var rigtig hyggelig at snakke med – bl.a. snakkede vi om danskernes forhold til hunde. Et par af

kroner 8,000 - he would rather have had a car for the money.



After a really nice day and evening in good company in the countryside at Signe and Anders, we turned noses homewards - satisfied and filled with joy at the day's experiences.



We have since been visited by Maggie and Jens, who took the trip from Aalborg to Hjern entirely to visit Thandie.

Thandie remains in Denmark up to 22nd September. She is 26 years on 10th August, and we will hold a small birthday party for her. This is the first time in her life that she is celebrated and given gifts. She also believes it will be the last. She is looking very much forward to the day.

On behalf of the two sisters and Thandie Bente

slagsen opholdt sig nemlig i lokalet, hvor vi spiste. Han var meget interesseret i prisen på en hund i Danmark. Da vi for ca. et år siden fik en lille ny af slagsen, kunne jeg fortælle, at den havde kostet d.kr. 8.000,-. Han ville nu hellere have haft en bil for pengene.

Efter en rigtig hyggelig dag og aften i godt selskab på landet hos Signe og Anders, vendte vi snuden hjemover – mætte og fyldt med glæde over dagens oplevelser.

Vi har siden haft besøg af Maggie og Jens, som tog turen helt fra Ålborg til Hjern for at besøge Thandie.



Thandie bliver i Danmark frem til den 22. september. Hun bliver 26 år den 10. August, og vi skal holde en lille fødselsdagsfest for hende. Det er første gang i hendes liv, at hun bliver fejret og får gaver. Hun tror også, det bliver den sidste. Hun glæder sig rigtig meget. På vegne af de to søstre og Thandie Bente



DLN's 10-year Jubilee Pitso

By Claus Bo Jensen

On the seventh July in the afternoon, there was an unusually high concentration of Basotho hats on Hvidballegård. This was due to the approximately 30 DLN members and 4 guests

DLN 10 års jubilæumspitso

Af Claus Bo Jensen

Den 7. juli om eftermiddagen var der en usædvanlig høj koncentration af basothohatte på Hvidballegård. Det skyldtes de omkring 30 DLN-medlemmer og 4 gæster fra Lesotho, som



from Lesotho, who had gathered to celebrate the Network's 10-year anniversary. The event began in the Danish branch with a gathering around the large cake table and afternoon tea. Luckily, it was one of those days when the Danish summer is at its best, so we could sit outside and enjoy the sun. As we could not consume more cake, it was time for a couple of speeches in honor of the occasion. The speakers agreed that it has been well done, that the Network has gotten so good hold that it has reached its 10-year anniversary. M'e Thulo thanked for DLN's support and presented a tapestry as a gift from RSDA. DLN receipted with the most famous Danish poster. Yes, namely, the one with the ducks and the policeman.



Then it was time for a bit of exercise and to brush up or learn some African dance moves. There was a little excitement because we had an agreement with TV2 East Jutland, but they

var samlet for at fejre foreningens 10 års jubilæum.



Arrangementet begyndte i den danske afdeling med det store kagebord til eftermiddagskaffen. Heldigvis var det en af de dage, hvor den danske sommer var som bedst, så vi kunne sidde ude og nyde solen. Da vi ikke kunne spise flere kager, var det tid til et par taler i dagens anledning. Talerne var enige om, at det var godt gået, at foreningen har fået så godt fat, at den er nået til sin 10-års fødselsdag.



M'e Thulo takkede for DLN's støtte og overrakte et vægtæppe som gave fra RSDA. DLN kvitterede med den mest berømte danske plakat. Ja nemlig, den med ænderne og politimanden.

went for other exciting news, and so it was not to become the day that new candidates for the next 'Dancing with the Stars' stepped into the lamp light.

Dinner was in the African department of lamb chops on the grill, stew in the black pots over the fire, papa, moroho etc. It was very good and delicious, and we look forward to celebrating the next anniversary.



Så var det tid til at få rørt sig lidt og få genopfrisket eller lært nogle afrikanske dansetrin. Der var lidt nervøsitet, da vi havde en aftale med TV2 Østjylland, men de fik mere spændende nyheder, så det blev ikke i dag, at der kom nye kandidater frem til næste 'Vild med dans'.

Aftensmaden var i den afrikanske afdeling med lammekoteletter på grillen, stew i de sorte gryder over bålet, papa, moroho osv. Det var vældig godt og lækkert, og vi ser frem til fejringen af næste jubilæum.



News from the Board

In Denmark, it has been summer and vacation time. This has not meant that DLN has been vacationing. Quite the contrary. There have been a lot of activities since the last newsletter was published.

Two members of the project group have been visiting Development of Peace Education (DPE) in Lesotho for a week to examine and agree on the content in the next project that DLN will seek funds for to work with DPE. The evaluation of the first project showed that DPE is very proficient at the work they are doing out in the areas where they are present. However, there are challenges in the administration. The new project will also address these challenges. Read about the week in Lesotho elsewhere in the newsletter. There have been visits from Lesotho.

Nyt fra bestyrelsen.

I Danmark har det været sommer og ferietid. Det har dog ikke betydet, at DLN har holdt fri. Tværtimod. Der har været rigtig mange aktiviteter siden sidste nyhedsbrev udkom. Der har været 2 fra projektgruppen til Development of Peace Education (DPE) i Lesotho en uge for at undersøge og aftale, hvilket indhold, der skal være i det næste projekt, som DLN vil søge midler til sammen med DPE. Evalueringen af det første projekt viste, at DPE er meget dygtige til det arbejde, de laver ude i de områder, hvor de er. Derimod er der udfordringer i administrationen. Det nye projekt vil bl.a. tage fat om dette. Der er en omtale af ugen et andet sted i nyhedsbrevet. Der har været besøg fra Lesotho. Direktøren og formanden for Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) 'm'e

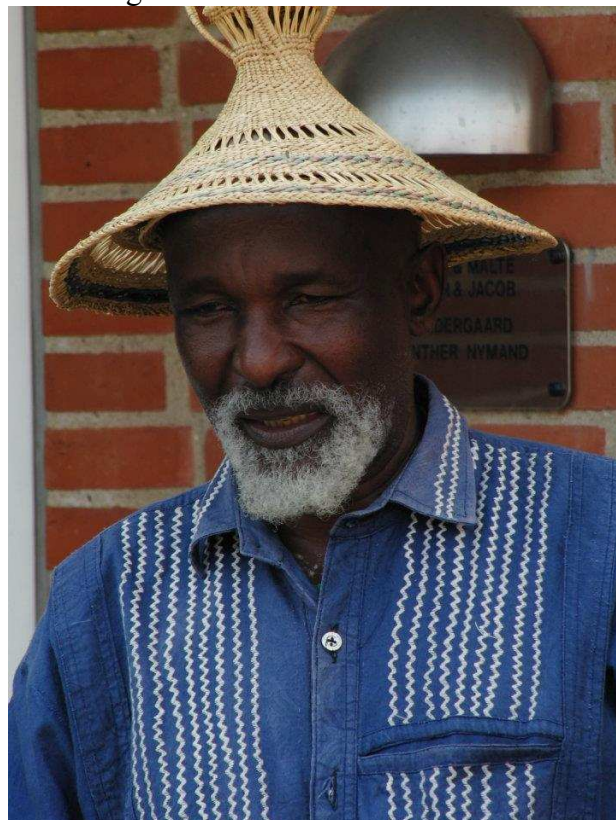
The Director and the Chairman of the Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA), 'm'e Mampo Thulo and ntate Makhema Mats'aba, were in Denmark for a week. They were guided around to various organic farmers and visited Akselborg. The visit is described in DLN's website: "Food and Culture" and "Local Insight". You can also learn more under the tab "reports" where you find a thorough description of a day in Denmark: "DLN fik besøg af partner fra Lesotho". In English it says: "DLN visited by a partner from Lesotho".



Director me Mampo Thulo

DLN has celebrated this year that our ngo was started ten years ago. A party was held with cakes, coffee, tea, talking, sun-downers, dancing and dining. It was a really good day, the mood was top notch, and people enjoyed themselves in the good summer weather. Thanks to Anders and Signe for inviting party goers into their house and garden. Thank you to the party committee for a job well done. Thank you to the cookie backers, to those

Mampo Thulo og ntate Makhema Mats'aba var i Danmark en uge. De blev vist rundt til forskellige økologiske landmænd og var på Akselborg.



ntate Makhema Mats'aba

Besøget er omtalt på DLNs hjemmeside: "Food and Culture" og "Lokalt indblik". Desuden findes der under fanebladet "reports" en grundig beskrivelse af en dag i Danmark: "DLN fik besøg af partner fra Lesotho". På engelsk hedder den: "DLN visited by a partner from Lesotho"

DLN har fejret, at det i år er ti år siden, DLN blev startet. Der blev holdt fest med kage, kaffe, the, taler, sun-downer, dans og spisning. TV2oj viste interesse for at bringe et indslag, men meldte afbud en halv time før det tidspunkt, de havde anmeldt deres ankomst. Det blev en rigtig god dag, hvor stemningen var helt i top, og folk hyggede sig i det gode sommervejr. Tak til Anders og Signe, fordi de lagde hus, have og festlokaler til. Tak til festudvalget for vel udført arbejde. Tak til kagebagere, talere og deltagere

making speeches and to participants by bringing good spirit creating a festive atmosphere.

There has been a meeting with CISU about the new application to the DPE project. The application is almost finished. It must be submitted before 15 September. If it is approved, the plan is to start the project early next year.

SADC Peoples' Summit

By Sofonea Shale

Basotho added their voices to the regional social movements call to the SADC Heads of State and Government to *stop the pursuit of neo-liberal social and economic policies*. This happened at the 8th edition of the SADC People's Summit held in Maputo Mozambique 15-16th August 2012 which featured a fierce debate on development paradigms that SADC leaders are choosing which deprive people power to produce their own food, which perpetuate economic injustice, curtail democracy and further disintegrate the people of Southern Africa on the one hand and a march which handed a Communiqué to the Leaders Summit.

Lesotho's delegation led by 'Mankhatho Selepe-DPE Peace Education Researcher was made of nine delegates from Transformation Resource Centre, Young Christian Students, Development for Peace Education and community representatives from three DPE areas namely Senekane, 'Mamaebana and Khoelenya. In her solidarity message 'Mankhatho said that it is now the time for civil society and the social movements to reflect seriously on the progress they are making so that they could build on the strengths. She called upon the region to look at what civil society in Lesotho did in educating and motivating people to rise and taking a lead in ensuring that the power transfer is peaceful. "Unless we amplify these successes, the governments which are made by politicians

fordi I kom med godt humør og hjalp til med at gøre dagen festlig.

Der er holdt møde med CISU om den nye ansøgning til DPE-projektet. Ansøgningen er næsten færdig. Den skal sendes ind inden den 15. september. Hvis den bliver godkendt, er planen at starte projektet først i det kommende år.

Folkeligt topmøde i SADC

Af Sofonea Shale

Basotoerne har sammen med den regionale sociale bevægelse i det Sydlige Afrika krævet, at lederne i Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) stopper implementeringen af neo-liberale sociale og økonomiske politikker. Dette skete under det ottende SADC Peoples' Summit der blev afholdt i Mozambiques hovedstad Maputo d. 15.-16. august 2012. Under topmødet var der intense diskussioner om det neoliberale udviklingsparadigme, der fratager folks muligheder for at producere deres egen mad, der medfører økonomisk ulighed, indskrænker demokratiet og fører til en disintegration af befolkningen i det Sydlige Afrika. Resultatet var en udtalelse der blev overleveret til det officielle topmøde med repræsentanter fra medlemsstaterne.

Lesotho delegationen blev ledet af 'Mankhatho Selepe, en af DPEs Peace Education Reserchers og havde ni deltagere fra Transformation Ressource Centre, Young Christian Students, DPE og tre repræsentanter fra lokalsamfundene Senekane, 'Mamaebana og Khoelenya. I sin solidaritetsudtalelse sagde 'Mankhatho, at civilsamfundet og den sociale bevægelse bør reflektere over deres fremskridt og bygge videre på disse. Hun opfordrede regionen til at vende blikket mod Lesotho og lære af civilsamfundets resultater indenfor uddannelse og mobilisering af folket til at sikre en fredelig overlevering af magten.

any way, will try to hide civil society in the dark room...we must stand up and claim our space in the political, economic and development discourse..." Said 'Mankhatho amidst the ululations and slogans chanted in praise of an African woman. Ntate Thabo Ntoi, a farmer from Senekane reports that he was fulfilled by the side workshop who he attended, for calling on the governments *to guarantee food sovereignty through agrarian reform and the establishment of the indigenous seed banks*. The development and enforcement of policies that promote and protect rights of women and children, creation of jobs through adaptation to climate change will be of interests to the youth from Khoelenya. The social movements also called upon the governments to fast track normalization of situation in Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Democratic Republic of Congo so that people in these countries enjoy freedom and democracy. In a session that consolidated the discussion points for declaration, Sofonea Shale, Coordinator of DPE who was the chair of the session, challenged the Summit to come up with practical ways of engaging SADC at the national level. Giving an example that before coming to the Summit DPE had met with Minister of Justice to tell him that as DPE they would like to see Lesotho voting for the keeping of SADC Tribunal the way it is. "If we all do that and seek their word while at home, and petition them jointly when we are at the Summit and they are at their Summit, and then engage them when they go back home, there is no doubt we shall make them feel and hear us". He called upon the partners of social movements there to support these solidarity platforms.

Lesotho participation has been made possible by Southern African People's Solidarity Network and Denmark Lesotho Network. A very big thank you! This is a very big investment in empowering our communities. In October, there is a Southern Africa Social Forum and Africa Social Forum in January. It

"Hvis ikke vi bygger videre på disse succes'er vil politikerne i regeringerne forsøge at gemme civilsamfundet væk i et mørkt værelse... Vi må kræve vores plads i den politiske, økonomiske og udviklings debat..." sagde 'Mankhatho til lyden af 'ululation' og slogans der blev sunget til den afrikanske kvinde. Ntate Thabo Ntoi, en landmand fra Senekane, fortalte om sin glæde ved at deltage i en workshop, der opfordrede regeringerne til at *garantere fødevarer sikkerhed gennem landbrugsreformer og oprettelse af 'indigenous seed banks' (bank af oprindelig såsæd)*. Unge i Khoelenya vil være meget interesserede i at bidrage til udviklingen og implementering af politikker, der fremmer og beskytter kvinders og børns rettigheder og skaber jobs gennem tilpasning til klimaforandringer.

Den sociale bevægelse opfordrede også regeringerne til at fremskynde en normalisering af situation i Zimbabwe, Swaziland og den Demokratiske Republik Congo, for at bringe frihed og demokrati til disse lande. Sofonea Shale, DPEs Koordinator, ledede en session der konsoliderede indholdet i deklARATIONEN, han udfordrede deltagerne til at finde nye måder at engagere lederne af SADC landene lokalt. Han nævnte som eksempel, at DPE mødte Justitsministeren før de tog til topmødet for at opfordre ham til at stemme ja til at beholde SADC domstolen i sin nuværende form. "Hvis vi alle gør det samme: mødes med politikerne hjemme, før vi laver en fælles udtalelse, mens vi er på topmødet og så engagerer dem igen, når de kommer hjem, vil vi uden tvivl få dem til at se og høre os." Han opfordrede alle partnere ved den sociale bevægelse til at støtte denne og lignende solidaritetsplatforme.

Lesothos deltagelse var mulig gennem støtte fra Southern African People's Solidarity Network og Denmark Lesotho Network. Vi siger mange tak! Dette er en meget stor investering i empowerment af vores samfund. Der er et Southern Africa Social Forum i oktober og Africa Social Forum i januar. Det er gennem disse platforme, Lesotho kan lære af andres

is through these platforms that Lesotho learns what others are doing and how the local participation avenues could be improved. Communities have made several contacts with youth and women from Zambia, Swaziland and South Africa.

Apparaisal week with DPE

By Marie Villumsen DPE/DLN Group

In the chilly winter sun Maseru is buzzing with excitement. Everyone is eager to make sense of the new political landscape and predict where the newly formed coalition government will lead Lesotho to in the coming years. Bodil and I have just arrived in Maseru and we are thrilled to be here while history is in the making and Lesotho is entering a new form of democracy, where new forms of political strategies will take shape.

It is within this political context we meet with our partner Development for Peace Education (DPE) to discuss our future partnership. Ahead of us lies a week of open and inspiring discussions about DPEs role as a catalyst for public participation in governance and development and how we can work together towards the vision of developing a people-centered and peaceful democracy.

DLN and DPE has just finalised the first phase of our project, where we reached out to three remote areas to facilitate community dialogue and involvement in political and legislative processes. Through Peoples' Tribunals and the Community Parliament, community members learned about the legislative and national budgeting processes and were given an opportunity to express their views and opinions to the policy makers in the National Assembly and Ministries. Listening to peoples' voices, however, is not enough, and DPE has played an important role in lobbying politicians to implement the demands put forward by communities.

There is no hesitation in National Coordinator Sofonea Shale's voice when he outlines the

erfaringer og finde nye måder til at forbedre de lokale strukturer for borgerdeltagelse. Delegationen har været i tæt kontakt med unge og kvinder fra Zambia, Swaziland og Sydafrika.

En arbejdsuge hos DPE

Af Marie Villumsen – DPE/DLN Arbejdsgruppe

Maseru summer af spænding. Alle forsøger at finde hoved og hale i det nye politiske landskab og forudsige, hvad den nye koalitionsregering vil komme til at betyde for Lesothos fremtid. Bodil og jeg er lige ankommet til Maseru i disse historiske dage, hvor Lesotho er på vej ind i en ny type demokrati, hvor en ny form for regering vil være nød til at tage nye former for samarbejdsformer i brug.

Det er midt i den spændende politiske udvikling, vi mødes med vores partner Development for Peace Education (DPE) for at diskutere vores fremtidige partnerskab. Foran os ligger en uge med åbne og inspirerende diskussioner om DPEs rolle som fortaler for den brede folkelige deltagelse i politik og udvikling, og hvordan vi i fællesskab kan arbejde frem mod visionen om et folkedrevet og fredeligt demokrati.

DLN og DPE har lige afsluttet første fase af vores projekt, hvor vi opstartede aktiviteter i tre nye områder i afsidesliggende dele af Lesotho, og DPE har hjulpet lokalsamfundene med at blive involveret i politik og lovgivningsarbejdet lokalt og nationalt. Gennem rollespillene Peoples' Tribunals (Folkets Domstol) og Community Parliament (Borgerparlamentet) har borgere fra lokalsamfundene lært, hvordan love og politikker bliver forhandlet, og hvordan de virker i praksis. De har også haft mulighed for at møde Parlamentet og Ministerier og give deres mening til kende. DPE har også kæmpet hårdt for at politikerne ikke blot lytter til borgerne, men også implementerer de krav, de har fremført.

Når vi taler om fremtiden, er der ingen tøven i

main priorities for DPE in the future. What is needed is a Public Participation Act that ensures that peoples' voices are heard when new legislation and policies are being formulated; mechanisms for Parliamentarians to engage with their constituencies on a regular basis; and strong local councils that are able to respond to the problems and issues people face in their daily lives.

We discuss these and many other issues in an intense week full of meetings and workshops with DPEs staff and Executive Committee, civil society, Parliamentarians and development partners. We juggle between detailed discussions about the activity plans for the next project phase and high level engagement between civil society organisations and representatives from the National Assembly about strategies for engaging communities in decision-making. All the people involved in these meetings show a strong commitment to find new ways of reaching out to people in all corners of the country and to give communities the opportunity to voice their needs and priorities. As we prepare for our departure it is clear that we have achieved what we aimed for. We have developed our joint strategy for the next phase of our partnership and look forward to moving forward.

What the Director experienced

By 'Mampo Thulo

Impressions by RSDA Managing Director – 'Mampho Thulo and RSDA Board Chairperson- Mr Makhema Mats'aba after their visit to Denmark.

The writer undertook a study visit from the 1st-10th July, 2012 to Denmark. The purpose of the study visit was to expose both the RSDA Managing Director and RSDA Board Chairperson to the Danish agriculture but most importantly to be inspired by Danish farmers.

Sofonea Shales (DPEs Nationale Koordinator) stemme. Han taler passioneret om DPEs prioriteter: der er behov for en lov, der stiller krav om borgerdeltagelse i lovgivningsprocesser og formuleringen af politikker; mekanismer for at sikre at Parlamentsmedlemmer er i dialog med deres valgkredse og stærke kommuner, der kan sørge for at løse de problemer, borgerne står overfor i hverdagen.

Det og meget andet diskuterer vi i løbet af en intens uge med mange møder og workshops med DPEs ansatte og bestyrelse, civilsamfundet, parlamentsmedlemmer og mulige fremtidige donorer. Vi balancerer mellem meget detaljerede diskussioner om aktivitetsplanerne for det nye projekt og overordnede politiske diskussioner med civilsamfundet og repræsentanter fra Parlamentet om mulige strategier for at øge borgernes deltagelse i demokratiet. I alle disse møder udviser alle en stor passion for at finde nye måder til at nå ud til borgerne i alle hjørner af landet og at give dem mulighed for at udtrykke deres holdninger og prioriteter til politikerne.

Da vi når til afslutningen af vores besøg, er det helt tydeligt, at vi har opnået det vi kom for. Vi har udviklet en fælles strategi for den næste fase af vores partnerskab og glæder os til det fremtidige samarbejde.

Direktørens oplevelser

Af 'Mampo Thulo

RSDAs administrerende direktør Mampho Thulo og bestyrelsesformand Makhema Mats'aba var på besøg i Danmark

Bestyrelsesformanden og jeg var på studiebesøg i Danmark fra 1.-10. juli 2012. Formålet var at studere dansk landbrug, men nok så meget at finde inspiration hos danske landmænd. Besøget var arrangeret og blev forestået af Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN). Lige fra ankomsten til lufthavnen og til afrejsedagen var

The visit was organized and hosted by Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN). From the airport to the day we left Denmark we were in the company of the members of the Denmark Lesotho Network.



Our main question was what can Basotho farmers learn from the Danish Agriculture? The three most important things we learnt about Danish Agriculture which are also important for Lesotho are as follows:

1.

We liked the Danish agriculture especially the Danish agriculture and food Council model. The existing Lesotho Farmers Associations and the food industry can join forces to form a new agriculture organization designed to take care of all farmers' interests and speaks with one voice in handling both professional and political interests. *We liked the principle of "one farmer, one vote irrespective of whether a farmer is big or small-holder."*

2.

The Agriculture centre for Agriculture and its innovation of Agriculture and Food Park which is duly owned by the Danish agriculture and food Council.

3.

Organic farming –pork, poultry and dairy

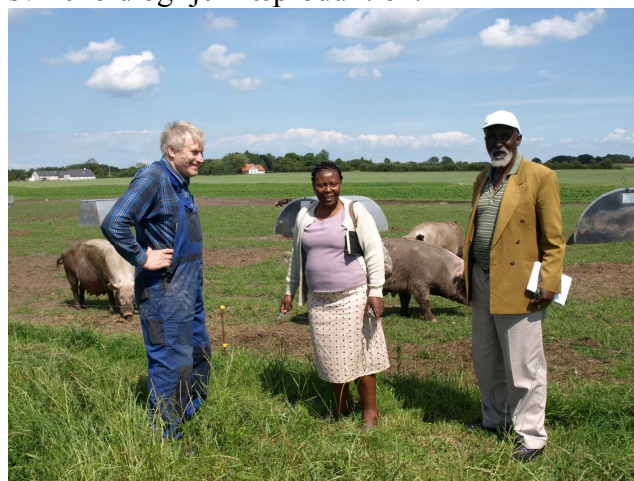
Organic farming as practiced in Denmark is very practical. The animal breeds and crops grown in Denmark are already available in Lesotho. We were highly impressed by organic dairy, piggery and poultry that we saw.

vi i selskab med medlemmer af Denmark Lesotho Network.

Vores vigtigste spørgsmål var: Hvad kan Lesothos landmænd lære af dansk landbrug? Her følger de tre mest markante input, som også kan få betydning for Lesotho:

- Den danske model: Landbrugsforeningerne og fødevarerindustrien i Lesotho kunne gå sammen om at danne en ny landbrugsorganisation designet til at tage sig af alle landmænds interesser og dermed tale med én stemme for at håndtere både faglige og politiske interesser. Vi kunne godt lide princippet "én landmand, én stemme", uanset om landmanden er stor eller lille.
- Landbrugsrådet og dets innovation inden for landbrug og fødevarer.
- Økologisk landbrug - svinekød, fjerkræ og mejeriprodukter.

Økologisk landbrug i Danmark forekommer meget effektivt. De dyreracer og afgrøder, der dyrkes, er også tilgængelige i Lesotho. Vi var meget imponerede af økologiske mejerier, svinehold og fjerkræproduktion.



Hvorfor er ovenstående nyttigt for Lesotho?

Der kunne dannes en landbrugsorganisation ved at Lesothos landmænd gik sammen, uanset hvilke råvarer de arbejder med: uld og mohair, mejeri, fjerkræ, svinehold, grøntsager osv. De ville stå godt rustede til at udøve politisk pres

Why are the above useful for Lesotho?

1.

The Agriculture organization can be formed by the Lesotho farmers themselves across all commodities – wool and mohair, dairy, poultry, piggery, crops and vegetables etc. It will be well placed to exert political pressure and secure better services for farmers and grow agriculture in Lesotho taking advantage of the support of the new Government in Lesotho.

2.

The Agriculture centre for Agriculture and its innovation of Agriculture and Food Park which is duly owned by the Danish agriculture and food Council. This could be very good initiative to provide advisory services and one stop shop for farmers. Lesotho farmers could benefit a lot from this innovation. Then the Government will stick to making laws and policies and enforcement, while the farmers run their own industry to grow agriculture and food in Lesotho.

3.

Organic farming as practiced in Denmark is very practical and could be easily adapted by the Lesotho farmers as it is very close to the way of farming in Lesotho. What would be required is that Lesotho farmers be assisted with organic certification.



What we expected before we went to Denmark?

We were pleasantly surprised by Denmark. We

og sikre bedre service for landbrugere samt drage fordel af støtte fra den nye regering i Lesotho.

Oprettelse af en organisation à la Landbrugsrådet kunne være et godt initiativ for at yde rådgivning og være en "one-stop shop" for landmændene. Lesothos landmænd kunne få stor gavn af en sådan innovativ organisation. Dermed kunne regeringen holde sig til at lave love og politik, mens landmændene kunne drive deres egen industri og styrke landbruget og fødevarereproduktionen i Lesotho. Økologisk landbrug som det praktiseres i Danmark er meget effektivt og kunne nemt tilpasses forholdene i Lesotho, da det i forvejen er meget tæt på de eksisterende produktionsformer. Det ville dog kræve, at Lesothos landmænd bistås med økologisk certificering.



Hvad forventede vi forud for besøget i Danmark?

Vi blev glædeligt overraskede over Danmark. Vi fandt det grønne, rene og smukke Danmark omgivet af vand. Gæstfriheden var langt over vores forventning lige fra ankomsten i lufthavnen og indtil den dag, vi atter forlod Danmark. Vi var også imponerede af den store indsats inden for grøn energi og vindkraft. Kort sagt: vi kunne lide, hvad vi så - især de simple teknologier, der anvendes inden for økologisk

found the green, clean and beautiful Denmark surrounded by water. The hospitality we received was beyond our expectation from the airport up to the day we left Denmark. We were also impressed by the effort put on green energy –wind power. In short we liked what we saw especially the simple technologies used under organic farming.

Did the trip fulfill our expectation?

We are still very inspired by the visit. We will continue to share the information with Lesotho farmers and other stakeholders so that together we can begin to organize farmers from the local to national level and influence agriculture and food policy of the Lesotho Government. The idea of organizing farmers at National level is an idea which RSDA wants to pursue will go into strategy and may be future partnership with DLN.

RSDA really appreciate the opportunity that we have been afforded by the Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) to have visited Denmark, especially to be part of the *Pitso*. This also allowed bonding with all DLN members and we left Denmark educated about how DLN is set up and how members are dedicating their time to helping Lesotho and the partners.

landbrug.

Har turen opfyldt vores forventning?

Vi er stadig meget inspirerede af besøget. Vi vil fortsætte med at dele oplysningerne med Lesothos landmænd og andre interessenter, så vi sammen kan begynde at organisere bønder fra det lokale til det nationale plan og øve indflydelse på regeringens landbrugs- og fødevarepolitik i Lesotho.

Tanken om at organisere landmænd på nationalt plan er en idé, som RSDA ønsker at forfølge, eventuelt i et fremtidigt partnerskab med DLN. RSDA sætter pris på de muligheder, vi har fået af Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN), ikke mindst var det en fornøjelse at være med til en Pitso. Det gav mulighed for at knytte bånd til alle DLN-medlemmer, og vi forlod Danmark med viden om, hvordan DLN er organiseret, og hvordan medlemmerne afsætter tid til at hjælpe Lesotho og partnerne.



News from Lesotho:

From: [Reuters Africa](#)

New Lesotho PM sworn in to head coalition government

Fri Jun 8, 2012 2:37pm GMT

MASERU (Reuters) - Lesotho opposition leader Thomas Thabane was sworn in on Friday as the mountain kingdom's new prime minister after he ousted the man who held the job for 14 years by cobbling together a narrow coalition government.

The smooth transition will allay fears for a rerun of 1998, when post-poll wrangling led to weeks of unrest that ultimately triggered military intervention by neighbouring South Africa and Botswana to restore order.

"This is not my victory but your victory as the nation because you are the ones who elected us into power," Thabane, a 72-year-old career civil servant and former foreign minister, said at the swearing in ceremony in the capital Maseru.

Pakalitha Mosisili, prime minister for 14 years, accepted defeat this week after Thabane managed to forge the coalition after elections held almost two weeks ago.

Mosisili's Democratic Congress party had the most seats with 48 while Thabane's All Basotho Convention came second with 30. But Thabane managed to tap into anti-Mosisili sentiment among smaller parties to get a slim majority in the 120-seat parliament.

Since independence from Britain in 1966, Lesotho - entirely surrounded by South Africa - has undergone several military coups although the army and police told election monitors before the poll they would act professionally and not take sides. The capital on Friday was calm. Unrest would have dented a \$4 billion economy, which is forecast to expand at 4 percent this year due to a boom in diamond mining and a recovery in the farming sector after serious flooding in 2011.

Besides a slice of regional customs receipts, Lesotho's big earner is hydropower exported to South Africa from the massive mountain ranges that have made it a favourite of trivia fans as "the world's highest country" - its lowest point is 1,380 metres (4,528 feet) above sea level.



From: [Public Eye Daily](#)

Environment and tourism: energy sector remains key

8/17/12

By Tsitsi Matope

MASERU-Creating an eco-friendly energy sector is a critical component to environmental sustainability and responsible tourism, the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation spokesperson, Miss Lineo Tlapana said in an interview on Wednesday this week.

Tlapana was speaking ahead of Tourism Month commemorations, to be celebrated in September.

According to Tlapana, most of the country's tourism development programmes were in line with this year's theme, which is Tourism and Sustainable Energy: Powering Sustainable Development.

"We understand the linkages between greenhouse emissions and their negative environmental and climatic impact. These effects also impact heavily on the tourism sector because they gradually devastate and eventually destroy our tourism products, which come in the forms of nature, habitats of various wildlife species and the species themselves," Tlapana said. Tlapana further said due to the crosscutting nature of the effects of climate change, the tourism sector was collaborating efforts with the energy sector in promoting the use of alternative and cleaner sources of energy such as solar and wind power.

"Such alternatives can go a long way to promote conservation of the environment, for example, protecting our forests. This would help reduce soil-erosion, which is silting our rivers and dams."

Every year, thousands of tourists visit Lesotho to admire the extraordinary beauty of dams such as Mohale and Katse.

And according to Tlapana, because of the undulating and fragile nature of areas around the dams, efforts to stop the depletion of forests and the land were critical.

"Ensuring we contribute to putting a stop to activities that devastate the environment and biodiversity, is one of our major objectives, as a corporation. This is because over the years, we have lost many animal species, which include the Blue Antelope and Quagga, which are now extinct while many others have migrated to South Africa. Again, some plants that were only found in Lesotho have disappeared due to changes in climate and poor land-use practices."

This year's commemorations, Tlapana said, would focus mainly on creating public awareness on the consequences of some human activities on the environment and the tourism sector.

"We strongly believe an empowered community would make the right choices in terms of which energy sources to use for cooking and lighting at household level," Tlapana said, adding the awareness campaign, which would also incorporate the department of energy, also targeted companies and industries to remind them of the importance of adopting cleaner energy technologies and contribute towards reducing emissions.

Tlapana further explained this year, the corporation had organised a media tour of some of the tourist attractions, and invited the media from the Free State Province in South Africa.

"We do a lot of tourism collaborations with the Free State and we have realised that from the Lesotho tourism news generated by some media organisations in that province, there is need for some of their personnel to see our sites in order for them to appreciate their natural beauty."

The celebrations, Tlapana also noted, would include a search for local photographers with the capacity to shoot world-class pictures for future collaborations with the corporation.

From: [Lesotho Times](#)

Government moves to stave off looming food crisis

15 Aug 2012

By [Bongiwe Zihlangu](#)

MASERU — Agriculture Minister Litšoane Litšoane says the government has reallocated funds from other ministries to the agriculture sector to deal with the looming food crisis.

In an exclusive interview with the *Lesotho Times* yesterday, Litšoane said the government will also enter into partnerships with commercial farmers and share crops at the scale of 70-30, with government taking a bigger portion.

The dramatic steps to fight hunger come after Prime Minister Thomas Thabane last week told state television that Lesotho was facing a massive food crisis this year.

Litšoane said before Thabane made the announcement last Thursday, cabinet had already made the decision "to reallocate the budget".

"Government realised the danger of food shortage and decided to reallocate funds from other ministries and pump more into agriculture to better manage the food crisis and feed Basotho," Litšoane said.

"Thereafter cabinet instructed the Prime Minister to go ahead and announce the food shortage crisis."

With the money collected from the reallocation of funds, Litšoane said government will plough 42 000 hectares of arable land as well as fields which were announced by the premier as having yielded "a poor harvest in the last cropping season".

Litšoane added that government's estimated quantity of food to feed Basotho on an annual basis is 300 000 metric tons of various crops but that between now and May next year government would have produced "just 16 percent of that".

"From this we expect to have by May 2013 harvested at least 16 percent of the overall percentage of food required to feed this nation.

"We need 300 000 metric tons to feed Basotho annually," Litšoane said.

Lesotho's agriculture sector has been in free-fall for the past three decades.

Agriculture's contribution to the GDP slumped from a high of 25 percent in the 1980s to around 10 percent in the 1990s.

And last year it contributed a mere 7.7 percent to the GDP.

This is despite the fact that about 82 percent of Lesotho's 1.8 million people are involved in agriculture as subsistence farmers.

In the 1980s Lesotho used to produce 80 percent of its cereal needs but now it can only manage a measly 30 percent.

Of the 42 000 hectares to be ploughed this cropping season, Litšoane said the government will enter into share-cropping partnerships with field owners on 10 000 hectares with government taking 70 percent of the harvest "leaving field owners with 30 percent".

"This is because government will have invested more in the partnership in terms of finances," Litšoane said.

Litšoane added that besides partnerships with field owners, government will also engage block farmers such as the Mpharane Block Farmers (Temo-Mmoho) in Leribe in the Likhethlane constituency.

Litšoane, an ABC MP for the Bela-Bela constituency in Berea, is himself a successful block farmer who produces, among others, sugar beans, wheat and maize while at the same time focusing on livestock farming that includes rearing chickens and producing eggs.

"The block farmers would be subsidised by 50 percent which includes inputs such as seeds, fertilizers as well as other mechanical inputs," Litšoane said.

He said since government was willing to meet farmers halfway with inputs, and the expectation was that businessmen would be clamouring for the opportunity to sell inputs to farmers "especially those in the highlands and along the foothills of the mountains".

"The plan is for all businessmen wishing to sell inputs to farmers to be able to do so," Litšoane said.

For a successful harvest of early cash crops, Litšoane said government was already gearing for the revival of irrigation systems that had been dormant for years.

"We will also throw ourselves in the production of early cash crops. That way we're already fighting hunger.

"We also have fields of wheat that we hope to harvest in December or January," Litšoane said.

Litšoane said the manifestos of the ABC, LCD and BNP which form the coalition government had been fused into the formulation of the strategy because they all "encompass elements required to fight this acute shortage of food".

"The ABC in its manifesto addresses how farmers can be subsidised with inputs, while both the BNP and LCD address entering into partnerships with farmers for the realisation of sustainable food production for Basotho," Litšoane said.

This strategy comes against the backdrop of the release last month of an *International Food Security Assessment Report for 2012-2022* by the United States Department of Agriculture (Economic Research Service) on Sub-Saharan Africa which suggests Lesotho will be rendered severely food insecure for the next decade.

According to the report, nearly 100 percent of the population in Lesotho, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Eritrea is "projected to remain food insecure throughout the projection period".

The report adds this is because Lesotho has some of the lowest average grain yields in the world, whose agricultural output is characterised by wide swings in output due to rainfall variability

Thabane, minister clash

15 Aug 2012

By **Caswell Tlali**

MASERU — Prime Minister Thomas Thabane and his Police Minister Mophato Monyake seem not to agree on how to handle the issue of Eyob Belay Asemie, a Mosotho businessman of Ethiopian origin.

Asemie was arrested on Sunday but was not charged.

On Monday the High Court ordered his release but the police refused.

Police Commissioner Kizito Mhlakaza, is now facing a contempt of court charge for refusing to release him as ordered by the High Court.

The police say Esemie, 34, escaped from police custody on Tuesday.

His lawyer however says as far as he knows Asemie is still in custody and only the police can know his whereabouts.

There now seems to be confusion in government on how Asemie's case should be handled.

On Tuesday Monyake told MoAfrika FM radio station that Asemie should be re-arrested.

Monyake accused Asemie of "basking in too much comfort in this country that he seeks to have the police commissioner arrested".

He said Asemie, together with Home Affairs officials who gave him citizenship documents, will be arrested and prosecuted.

But Thabane has a different take on how the matter should be handled.

He told the *Lesotho Times*, hours after Monyake's radio interview, that court decisions should be respected.

If the police want to arrest Asemie they should wait until he commits another offence, Thabane said.

"As for now the High Court has ordered that he should be released and the government has the responsibility to ensure that that order is respected," Thabane said.

"The arm of the court is the police and if the arm cannot work for its owner there is something seriously wrong with that arm.

"When I deal with this matter it should not be seen as a minister against a certain police officer. It is our responsibility as a nation to give the courts the respect they deserve."

The premier said he did not understand when the police decided it was right to disobey the courts.

"There were no such incidents when I was the minister of police and I don't know whether in my absence from government the police developed this attitude towards the courts. If anybody comes hauling such things from the past government, they will have to stop."

Without democracy and rule of law the country will be ungovernable, Thabane added

What is Denmark Lesotho Network?

The NGO Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) was founded in 2002 by former Danish development workers in Lesotho and other good friends of the tiny mountain kingdom in Southern Africa. DLN aims at supporting NGO's in Lesotho in their work to develop civil society. DLN uses its network of people and organisations in Lesotho to pinpoint beneficiaries of DLN's support – and to keep an eye on that funding is used according to agreements made. DLN wishes to enhance knowledge of the living conditions in Lesotho and to seek funding from foundations, business enterprises and organisations for actual projects in Lesotho.

Membership of DLN

Anyone, who can support the aims of DLN, can achieve a membership. Members contribute to support initiatives in Lesotho that develop and better living conditions in the country. Members will receive an electronic newsletter four times a year and be invited to DLN's annual general assembly. The cost of a membership is 100 Danish kroner yearly.

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